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On December 23, 2005 Sterling China Co. closed its doors and approximately 177 former employees did not receive their pensions in a timely fashion after complications arose with the company’s bankruptcy. At least fifteen of Sterling’s workers contacted Wilson’s office for assistance in February 2007.

The funds had been ordered deposited at Park National Bank in Newark, Ohio, but could not be released until the plan was officially terminated by the Department of Labor and audited by the Internal Revenue Service.

After many months of calls and delays, Wilson contacted the Secretary of Labor. This week, former Sterling employees began receiving notification of the release of their benefits.

“It’s never good news when a company packs up and leaves, but when the employees left behind are treated unfairly, it’s absolutely unacceptable,” Wilson said. “I was happy to work with the Glass, Molders, Pottery, Plastics and Allied Workers Union to make sure these pensions were properly paid.”

Due to the decline in the investment portfolio , and some fees associated with the distribution, the participants will receive 95% of the approved amount at this time, with the remainder to be distributed after all fees and other charges are fully determined.###